



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Falls Church Police Department Encourages Motorists to Click It or Ticket

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – The City of Falls Church Police Department joins Virginia Law Enforcement in the national *Click It or Ticket* mobilization during the month of May. The *Click It or Ticket* program focuses on increasing seat belt and child safety seat use. This in turn reduces injury and fatality. Law enforcement from around Virginia will participate in high visibility patrols through the Memorial Day holiday.

Virginia law states that law enforcement can cite anyone driving a vehicle in which an occupant under the age of 16 is not wearing a seat belt or is not properly secured in a child safety seat. Further, the law also provides that drivers stopped for other violations can be cited if they are not buckled up. This also applies to all front seat passengers over the age of 16.

According to the Virginia Highway Safety Office, 946 persons were killed in motor vehicle related crashes in 2005. Of those, 454 persons were unrestrained. When worn correctly, seat belts have proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent - and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs, and minivans.

Preventing deaths and devastating injuries due to motor vehicle crashes is a top priority of the City of Falls Church Police Department. Buckling up significantly increases your chance of surviving a crash. Additionally, proper use of seat belts and child safety seats save millions of dollars in medical costs each year.

Click It or Ticket is one of several programs under the Smart, Safe and Sober Partnership. Smart, Safe and Sober is a statewide program dedicated to preventing crashes, injuries and fatalities on Virginia roadways. It is a joint partnership of City of Falls Church Police Department, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, the Virginia Sheriff's Association, the Virginia State Police, Drive Smart Virginia, and the Virginia Highway Safety Office, a Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

For more information, contact the City of Falls Church Police Department at 703-241-5050.

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